

Times Feature

Support Japan, prepare yourself

By Councilmember
Rose Herrera

Special to the Times

Our hearts go out to the residents of Japan during this unimaginable tragedy. The crisis continues to worsen due to the crippled nuclear plants. Many of us feel helpless with the magnitude of the devastation. There are ways to help the victims of this tragedy and prepare for an emergency in our community.

The nation of Japan will need our support for many months and years to come. The devastation that we saw in Haiti has taught us that we must come together as a global community to support each other for the long-term.

Like many veterans, I have a special connection to Japan. I was stationed in Okinawa and I have a tremendous love and respect for the people and culture of Japan. With great pride, I display a special tea set in my City Hall office to honor the time I spent living there.

San Jose also has a special connection to Japan. We are home to one of the last three major Japantowns in all of California. Located north of downtown San Jose, you can do a walking tour to learn more about its history. Today, you can still enjoy fresh made tofu at the San Jose Tofu Company, gain insight at the Japanese American History Museum, and be entertained by the amazing taiko art form from San Jose Taiko.

Here are ways to help the victims of the Japan earthquake and tsunami.

-Red Cross: America.redcross.org or by texting REDCROSS to 90999

-Salvation Army: www.net-workforgood.com

-Google has launched its crisis response website with resources to find loved ones in Japan. You can visit the Google website for more information.

If you lived here for the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, you remember what it was like to live through the initial earthquake and then the aftershocks. You may also remember the following days of confusion, the shortage of accurate and timely information, and the need to have an emergency plan in place.

While the scientific community cannot predict when and where a major earthquake will happen, there is consensus that the San Andreas Fault will experience a major earthquake in the next decade. We've had a huge

wake up call that we must be prepared for a major emergency. Here is information that will help you, your family, and your neighborhood get ready.

The basic checklist:

- two gallons of water per person for three days
- food and supplies per person for three days
- flashlights and batteries
- landline phone and battery powered radio
- supply of medication and copies of important documents
- pet supplies, if applicable
- know how to turn off gas, electricity, and water

Recently, Homeland Security came to speak to the City Council about emergency preparedness. They were very clear with us that residents will be on their own for at least three days. This means all first-responders will be mobilized to respond to large-scale emergencies and indi-

viduals must be ready to take care of themselves. The City of San Jose has the information you need so you are prepared to take care of yourself after an emergency.

Go to the website www.sanjoseprepared.com. At this website, you will learn more about the classes available to get you the most educated about what you can do to prepare for an emergency. There is also a document you can print out to give you the information you need for your disaster preparedness kit and details about the

Emergency Volunteer Center.

Sign up for AlertSCC. It is free and easy. AlertSCC is a confidential way for anyone who lives or works in Santa Clara County to get emergency warnings sent directly to their cell phone, mobile device, email, or landline. AlertSCC can reach you wherever you are to provide information and instructions in a variety of emergency situations, which may



**District 8
Report**

By Rose Herrera
City Councilmember

Councilmembers call for cap on medical cannabis businesses

Vice Mayor Madison Nguyen and Councilmembers Rose Herrera, Sam Liccardo, and Pete Constant have called for a limit on the number of medical cannabis businesses citywide and shutting down all other marijuana businesses in San Jose. The City's Rules Committee approved and it will go to City Council for approval April 12.

"Enough is enough. The problems with having an excess of medical marijuana sales in San Jose outweigh any benefit," said Herrera. "The increase in crime, drain on city services, and gray area of the law in which they operate is too great to think any taxes collected make it worth having over 100 shops."

The proposal will do three things. First, enable the city to establish a maximum number (cap) of 10 medical marijuana collectives permitted to operate within the city, two, create a streamlined application process for collectives to operate legally, and three, all other medical marijuana collectives beyond the cap shall stop operations within a specified time period.

"There's no reason to continue to burden our community, strain our Code Enforcement and Police Departments with the current volume and regulatory indecision of the issue. Also, medical marijuana businesses need clarity and certainty in this process," said Liccardo.

include wildfires, evacuations, public safety incidents, and post-disaster information such as shelter locations.

The communities of Japan affected by this unthinkable disaster need to know they are not alone. I appreciate all that you are able to do to support the efforts to help the survivors. This is also the wake up call we all need to

reconsider our own emergency preparedness and take action. It doesn't take much to assemble the water, supplies, and consider your loved ones before an emergency happens. I hope you will join me in making sure we are ready to help ourselves.

Sign up for the District 8 Newsletter: www.sanjoseca.gov/district8



COMMUNITY APPRECIATION DAY!

Sunday, March 27th

from 11 AM 'til ??? (or until we run out of food!)

FREE Burritos • FREE Tacos

Special Food Items Just For Kids

Live DJ • Fun for the Whole Family

Only one free food item per person for this event please.

Burrito Azteca is sponsoring this event to thank the community for your support for the last 5 years, and we'll be giving out FREE food, while food supplies last.

So, come on down to Evergreen Village Shopping Center to taste and enjoy some delicious, authentic Mexican food, great music and have some fun!

4075 Evergreen Village Square, #120 • (408) 274-5154

www.burritoazteca.com



Evergreen Village

Ruby Ave. at Aborn in San Jose's Evergreen neighborhood.